



H·CUP

HEALTHCARE COST AND UTILIZATION PROJECT

ONLINE RESOURCES

2012

HCUP ONLINE RESOURCES

HCUP-US WEBSITE

The Public Access HCUP-US Website

The HCUP-US Website – www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov – provides detailed information on HCUP databases, including: complete purchasing information; free tools and software; downloadable, printable versions of HCUP publications; and access to technical support.

- **Home page** – Provides an overview of HCUP, its databases, products, and support services – including a link for joining AHRQ’s HCUP mailing list.
- **Databases** – Includes descriptions of the HCUP databases, with detailed technical documentation, related reports, and complete purchasing information.
- **Tools and Software** – Provides links to HCUPnet, the AHRQ Quality Indicators, and MONAHRQ. Describes HCUP analytic tools available for download and HCUP supplemental files available from the Central Distributor. HCUP offers several analytic tools, including the Clinical Classifications Software (CCS), Chronic Condition Indicator, Comorbidity Software, Procedure Classes, and Utilization Flags. HCUP offers several supplemental files designed for use with the HCUP databases, including Cost-to-Charge Ratio (CCR) Files, Hospital Market Structure (HMS) Files, AHA Linkage Files, NIS- and KID-Trends, NIS Hospital Ownership Files, and Revisit Analysis Variables. The HCUP tools and software have been developed by AHRQ to enhance the value of administrative health care data.
- **Reports** – Includes links to HCUP publications, including Statistical Briefs, HCUP Facts and Figures, HCUP Methods Series, Database Reports, HCUP Projections, and other information about using HCUP databases. Also includes Research Spotlights and a search feature for peer-reviewed journal articles and publications using HCUP data.
- **News and Events** – Contains the collection of quarterly HCUP e-News issues, HCUP announcements, and a calendar of upcoming events, databases, and product releases.
- **Technical Assistance** – Provides information for users, including contact information for the Central Distributor and technical support, HCUP publishing requirements, an index for the Website, and links to the HCUP Overview Course, HCUP Online Tutorial Series, and the HCUP Data Use Agreement Training Tool. The Central Distributor section contains complete purchasing information for the NIS, KID, NEDS, and restricted access public release versions of the SID, SASD, and SEDD.
- **Data Innovations** – Provides information about grants awarded to organizations and about Tool Kits for Partners interested in adding laboratory data and the data element “Present On Admission” to administrative data.

The Secure HCUP-US Partners Page

A username and password are required to access the secure HCUP-US Partners Page. To gain access, Partners should login to <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/login.jsp>. This part of the HCUP-US Website contains information and documents of specific interest to data organizations participating in HCUP. It provides a user-friendly platform for Partners to stay informed of HCUP

activities and requests; easily access HCUP MOAs and other documents; and locate Partner exclusive tools and reports.

The Partners Page provides easy navigation to:

- **Quick HCUP Facts** – Contains copies of HCUP Annual Activities Reports, as well as an electronic version of the current HCUP Project Overview Binder.
- **HCUP MOAs and Partnership Documentation** – Includes documents used to formalize the HCUP Partnership (sample HCUP MOA, Data Security Plan, and other references), Central Distributor overview for Partners, HCUP Partners Meeting Notes, and links to NHQR/NHDR FAQs and resources.
- **Partner-Exclusive Tools and Reports** – Includes analytic tools and reports designed in response to Partner requests for more statistical feedback on data quality and editing, translating HCUP products, and using analytic tools to improve data collection and quality. Partners may access the “My HCUP Data Elements” State-specific report of all data elements supplied to HCUP and released on HCUP databases. Additional tools include Border Crossing Overview tables and graphs; State-Specific Hospital Cost Report Files (SSHCRF) Implementation Guide; State Data Reports showing comparative information for the SID, SASD, and SEDD; resources on the development of the Enhancing the Clinical Content of Administrative Data Toolkit, and Nurse Staffing Database Report.
- **Data Collection and Submission** – Includes a variety of materials related to the collection and coding of data elements in inpatient and outpatient data developed over time, including resources for improving race-ethnicity data collection; resources related to outpatient data; and reports on external cause of injury codes (E codes), observation status, and encrypted patient identifiers.
- **National Data Standards** – Provides links to Websites for organizations focused on data standards issues, including ANSI ASC X12, Health Level 7 (HL-7), National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC), National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC), and the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC).
- **Health Information Technology (HIT) Resources** – Provides links to useful HIT Websites, including the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA); the Association for Electronic Health Care Transactions (AFEHCT); Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT); and the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI). Reports developed for AHRQ on HIT initiatives are also available, including descriptions of: the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) and the CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool (CART); eHealth Initiative’s Connecting Communities Toolkit; and the Public Health Information Network (PHIN).
- **Post-Hospitalization Mortality Workgroup** – Contains information, including meeting notes and presentations, survey results, uses of post-hospitalization mortality measures, and mortality data tools from workgroup sessions held in 2008-2009.
- **Revisit Database Workgroup** – Contains information, including presentation materials which detail the HCUP work identifying patient revisits and readmissions across time and hospital settings and methods on the development of the Revisit Analysis Variables from workgroup sessions held in 2009.

- **Race Ethnicity Workgroup** – Includes useful information on racial and ethnic disparities in health care and related data measurement issues as well as workgroup notes and reports from workgroup sessions held through 2010.

For more information on the password-protected HCUP-US Partners Page and to receive a username and password, please contact Kathy Hickey at Thomson Reuters, Kathy.Hickey@ThomsonReuters.com.

HCUPNET

HCUPnet – available at <http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov> – is a free, online query system based on data from HCUP. It provides instant access to statistics from the largest set of all-payer health care databases that are publicly available. Using HCUPnet's easy, step-by-step query system, users can generate tables and graphs on national and regional statistics and trends for community hospitals in the U.S. In addition, State-level data are available for those States that have agreed to participate in HCUPnet. HCUPnet also provides statistics based on the AHRQ Quality Indicators which have been applied to the NIS.

HCUPnet has query paths that allow users to generate national, regional, and State estimates on visits for children, for mental health and substance abuse, and for emergency department visits. AHRQ also created a path that allows users to generate statistics for “hospitals like mine,” based on various hospital characteristics in the NIS and includes information from the AHA Annual Survey, the CMS Hospital Compare Website, and the AHRQ Quality Indicators.

HCUPnet generates statistics using data from HCUP's NIS, KID, SID, SEDD, and NEDS. These databases and HCUPnet would not be possible without the Partner organizations that provide data to HCUP.

MONAHRQ

MONAHRQ (my own network, powered by AHRQ) is a desktop software tool that AHRQ developed to enable data organizations – such as State and local data organizations, regional reporting collaboratives, hospitals, and health plans – to input their own data and quickly generate a health care reporting Website ready for use by consumers, policy makers, or other decision makers. The site can provide information on hospital quality, hospital utilization and costs, local rates of procedures and conditions, and preventable hospitalizations in local areas.

To use MONAHRQ, an organization downloads the software and loads its data locally. MONAHRQ can use as input hospital administrative data and/or measure results from the CMS Hospital Compare Website. Next, the organization selects customization options and generates a Website. The organization hosts the Website itself.

The MONAHRQ software is built using several HCUP products, including the AHRQ Quality Indicators software, Clinical Classification Software, and Cost-to-Charge Ratio Files. The MONAHRQ reporting Website is partly modeled after HCUP's online query system, HCUPnet (hcupnet.ahrq.gov). For more information about MONAHRQ, including links to publicly accessible Websites generated using MONAHRQ, please visit the main MONAHRQ Website at <http://www.monahrq.ahrq.gov/>.

AHRQ QUALITY INDICATORS

AHRQ QIs – available at <http://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov> – are measures of health care quality that make use of readily available hospital inpatient administrative data. The AHRQ QIs may be used with HCUP data to highlight potential quality concerns, identify areas that need further study and investigation, and track changes over time.

The AHRQ QIs consist of four modules measuring various aspects of quality:

- **Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs)** identify hospital admissions that evidence suggests could have been avoided, at least in part, through high-quality outpatient care.
- **Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs)** reflect quality of care inside hospitals including inpatient mortality for medical conditions and surgical procedures.
- **Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs)** also reflect quality of care inside hospitals, but focus on potentially avoidable complications and iatrogenic events.
- **Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDIs)** reflect both quality of care inside hospitals and identify potentially avoidable hospitalizations among children.

Software and user guides for all four modules are available for download to assist users in applying the AHRQ QIs to their own data.